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NEWS AND COMMENT

Of the twenty-five papers read at the eleventh annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at St. Paul, May 9, 10, and 11, the following are of Minnesota interest or by Minnesota people: "Six Constitutions of the Far Northwest," by John D. Hicks of Hamline University; "Some Relations of the Upper Mississippi Valley with Lake Superior in the Civil War Period," by Lester B. Shippee of the University of Minnesota; "The Collapse of the Steamboat Traffic upon the Mississippi: An Inquiry into Causes," by Paul W. Brown of St. Louis; "An Undeveloped Phase of American History" (referring to agricultural history), by Herbert A. Kellar of Chicago; and "The Relation of the County Farm Bureau and the County Agent to the Collection of Local Historical Data Relating to Agriculture," by W. A. Lloyd of Washington. The annual address of the president, St. George L. Sioussat of Brown University, Providence, was on the subject, "Andrew Johnson and the Homestead Bill." At the luncheon on the last day of the meeting an inspiring patriotic address on the war and America's part in it was delivered by Thomas F. Moran of Purdue University. This feature of the program was furnished by the Committee on Public Information of the national government.

The Canadian government has recently established a Board of Historical Publications in connection with the Public Archives of Canada. The chairman of this board is to be a salaried official whose whole time will be devoted to the work of editing and supervising the publication of documents illustrative of the history of Canada in all its phases. The Dominion, with its archives department and building, was already far in advance of the United States in historical work; and that it should take another forward step at this time, when its resources are strained by the war, is evidence of an intelligent comprehension of the importance of history to the commonwealth.

The Loubat prizes for the two best works in the English language published during the last five years in the fields of

geography, archeology, ethnology, philology, numismatics, or history of North America before the Revolution have recently been awarded by Columbia University. Dr. Clarence W. Alvord of the University of Illinois received the first prize of a thousand dollars for his two-volume work entitled *The Mississippi Valley in British Politics*; and the second prize of four hundred dollars was awarded to Dr. Herbert I. Priestley of the University of California for his book entitled *José de Gálvez, Visitor-general of New Spain, 1765-1771*.

The National Board for Historical Service has announced the results of the prize essay contests conducted in various states for the best essays by public school teachers on the subject, "Why the United States Is at War." The section of the announcement concerning the contest in Minnesota, as printed in the *History Teacher's Magazine* for April is as follows:

"Contest in charge of Dr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent, Minnesota Historical Society.

"*Committees of Award*—Group A: Prof. William S. Davis, University of Minnesota; John DeQuincy Briggs, St. Paul Academy; President Marion L. Burton, University of Minnesota. Group B: Prof. John D. Hicks, Hamline University, St. Paul; Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown, St. Paul; Prof. Willis M. West, Grand Rapids.

"Essays submitted, 29.

"*Group A:*

First Prize: R. D. Bowden, High School, Fairfax.

Second Prize: Ruth West, 303 Washington Avenue, S. E., Minneapolis (North High School).

Third Prize: Ralph L. Henry, Hastings (New Ulm High School).

Fourth Prize: Rose Susan Guinn, 111 East Superior Street, Duluth (Denfeld High School).

Fifth Prize: Clara E. Willard, High School, Cambridge.

"*Group B:*

First Prize: Anne Devany, 3707 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.

Second Prize: Frances E. Gardner, 1011 River Road, S. E., Minneapolis.

Third Prizes: Lillie Iverson, R. F. D. 1, Glyndon (District 82); Letitia King, Wendell; Della Tomlinson, Hutchinson; Isabel Hutchison, Alexandria; Walter J. Schwalje, Ulen."

For Group A, consisting of teachers in high schools, the prizes were seventy-five, thirty, twenty, fifteen, and ten dollars; for Group B, consisting of teachers in elementary schools, the first prize was seventy-five dollars, the second, twenty-five, and there were five third prizes of ten dollars each. The winning essays in each group have been entered in a national contest, the results of which have not yet been announced.

Patriotic and hereditary societies in search of appropriate activities which will have permanent and valuable results should know of the fellowships for research in California history established at the University of California by the Native Sons of the Golden West. The first fellow was appointed for the year 1911-12, and since then there have been two fellowships available each year. The amount of each is fifteen hundred dollars, a sum sufficiently large to enable the holder to work in Spain or wherever else the sources of California history may be found. The fellowships have resulted in the discovery and collection of valuable materials and in the publication of books and articles which are significant contributions to the history of the state. They have made possible, moreover, the training of a number of scholars, some of whom will doubtless continue their research work in this field. The plan of the fellowships and the achievements of the different fellows are set forth in an article by Charles E. Chapman in the April issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

An editorial in the *American-Scandinavian Review* for May-June entitled "Conserving Historical Material" calls attention to the work of the Minnesota Historical Society in building up a Scandinavian-American collection and concludes with the statement: "The Society ought to have the coöperation of all who possess or know of any old documents that will add to our knowledge of Scandinavian history in America." A discussion of "Writers of Swedish Life in America," by Oliver A. Linder, in the same number of the *Review*, will be helpful to the historian

in search of information about social and economic conditions among these people.

The three articles in the July issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* are all of more than local interest. "Frontier Defense in Iowa, 1850-1865," by Dan E. Clark, has to do principally with measures for the protection of the northwestern frontier against the Sioux Indians and deals with the Spirit Lake massacre and the effects in Iowa of the Sioux uprising of 1862. W. W. Gist, in "Ages of the Soldiers in the Civil War," points out that there is no foundation for the statistics of ages which have frequently appeared in the press, and by a study of available data relating to the soldiers of Minnesota and of typical regiments from other states, reaches the conclusion that there is no ground for the somewhat prevalent belief that the Civil War was fought and won by boys. Of the Minnesota soldiers, for example, he finds that over fifty per cent enlisted at twenty-five or older and eight per cent were forty or over when they entered the army. The third article is an interesting study of "The Influence of Wheat and Cotton on Anglo-American Relations during the Civil War," by Louis B. Schmidt.

The issue of *Iowa and War* for May consists of a sketch of "The Spirit Lake Massacre," by Dan E. Clark. This is based upon the manuscript of a book with the same title by Thomas Teakle, which is soon to be published by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Norsk Americaner is the title of an interesting quarterly magazine started in September, 1916, by Martin Ulvestad of Seattle, Washington. It is devoted chiefly to material on the immigration and early settlements of Norwegians in the United States.

Scott Burton, Forester (New York, 1917. 310 p.) is the title of a book by Edward G. Cheyney, in which he traces the college career of a young man who is taking a course in forestry. The book is of especial interest to Minnesotans because it deals with a profession in which this state offers unusual opportunities, and also because the scene is laid at the University of Minnesota and the university's camp at Lake Itasca.

The fourth volume (volume 2 of the *Text*) of Thomas Hughes's *History of the Society of Jesus in North America, Colonial and Federal* (London and New York, 1917. xxv, 734 p.) embraces the activities of this order from 1645 to 1773. The student of northwestern history will be especially interested in that part of the work devoted to the Jesuit missions in Canada, which were at a high point of development during this period, and which formed a starting point for missionary movements, exploratory in character, in every direction. The movement westward to Lake Superior and the Mississippi Valley is all too briefly handled in pages 252-259. The account of the Iroquois missions and of the efforts put forth by both Canada and the English colony of New York to gain the alliance and friendship of these tribes—a contest which vitally affected the history of the West—has nowhere else been so exhaustively and vividly treated (pp. 334-434). Copious annotations, revealing a vast amount of scholarship and research, add authoritativeness. The documentary material for the present text is included in the previously issued *Documents*, vol. 1, parts 1 and 2, of this same work.

Readers of "Captain Potter's Recollections of Minnesota Experiences" in the BULLETIN for November, 1916, will be interested to know of the existence of a book entitled *The Autobiography of Theodore Edgar Potter* (228 p). This was privately printed for the family under the supervision of Mr. George C. Sprague of New York in 1913 and was unknown to the editor of the BULLETIN until recently. The last five chapters are practically identical with the "Recollections," lacking, of course, the annotations. A copy of the book, presented by Mr. Sprague, is now in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Under the title "1861-1917 War Calls Found Minnesota Ready; Nation Unprepared," the *Minneapolis Journal* of May 5 quotes at length from John D. Hicks's article on "The Organization of the Volunteer Army in 1861 with Special Reference to Minnesota," which appeared in the February issue of the BULLETIN.

The present year, 1918, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Minnesota. The elaborate plans which had been tentatively made to celebrate this anniversary in a fitting manner were abandoned on account of the war, and the occasion was marked only by a formal program at the Armory on the university campus on June 19 of commencement week. The addresses were given by the three former presidents of the institution, each of whom, in turn, reviewed the history of his own administration. The early growth of the university from 1868 to 1884 along the lines suggested by the broad and far-seeing wisdom of its first president was traced in a most entertaining and informing way by Dr. William W. Folwell. Cyrus Northrop, whose term of service covered twenty-seven years—the period of the university's most rapid development—continued the narrative, emphasizing especially what he believed to be his most important contribution, the "popularizing" of the university. Dr. George E. Vincent, president from 1911 to 1917, sketched very briefly the events of his administration; then, noting that "its semi-centennial . . . coincides with a turning point in the national life," he drew a vivid picture of the possibilities for service that are to be open to the university in the future. The three addresses are included in the June 24 issue of the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*.

To commemorate the closing of the tenth year of the school, and also the sixtieth anniversary of the year of the admission of Minnesota as a state, West High School of Minneapolis gave a pageant, "The Advance of Liberty," as a part of its graduation exercises, on June 13. In the libretto, written by members of the English department, Liberty calls upon the school to show what it has done for the North Star State. Each department replies with a tableau illustrating its contribution. The early history of the state was outlined by groups of Indians, of *voyageurs* headed by Radisson, and of priests, led by Father Hennepin.

At the close of the school year the pupils of the Clara Barton School, Minneapolis, gave an historical pageant entitled "Onward March of Civilization," in which the characters of Daniel Boone, David Crockett, and other western explorers played a conspicuous part.

Fifty old settlers of Hennepin County, all members of the Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association, gathered at the Godfrey House, Richard Chute Square, Minneapolis, June 1, to celebrate the sixty-ninth anniversary of the proclamation of Governor Alexander Ramsey inaugurating the government of Minnesota Territory. Other old settlers' associations which have held meetings during the past three months are: Minnesota Territorial Pioneers at the Old Capitol, St. Paul, May 11; Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association at Spicer, June 18; Old Settlers', Soldiers', and Sailors' Association of Fillmore County at Preston, June 19; Old Settlers' Association of Traverse County at Graceville, June 22; and Junior Pioneers' Association of St. Anthony at Columbia Heights, Minneapolis, June 29. The settlers of Warren, Marshall County, organized an association, June 23. On account of the war the annual meeting of the Stearns County Old Settlers' Association will not be held this year.

The Junior Pioneers' Association of St. Anthony Falls was formed May 3, 1918, with Dr. A. M. Eastman as president and M. P. Satterlee as secretary. Membership is open to "all those who lived in old St. Anthony from the time of its first organization into a town (and afterwards into the city of St. Anthony), up to the time it was taken into and became a part of the city of Minneapolis, which was on April 9th, 1872." The association held a basket picnic at Columbia Park, Minneapolis, on June 29.

In the May-June number of the *North Woods* (St. Paul), in an article entitled "What Forestry Has Done for the Chippewa Indians," General C. C. Andrews, secretary of the state forestry board, outlines the specific advantages which the Chippewa have enjoyed through "the application of forestry principles in the disposal of their pine timber" during the last fourteen years.

An account of Swedish emigration to the United States by Ernest A. Sponberg is running serially in the *Duluth Posten*, beginning in the issue of May 24. The installments so far published deal with the Northmen and the early settlements on the Delaware.

Milton O. Nelson traces the beginnings and development of Swedish Lutheranism in Minneapolis in the May 19 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. Of especial interest is his discussion of the work of the Augustana Lutheran Church under the direction of the Reverend C. J. Petri, who has been its pastor for thirty years.

In the section of "Old River Boats," in the June 8 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, there is printed a biography of Warren G. Wood, who helped to found and manage the "Diamond Joe" line.

The *St. Paul Dispatch* of May 20 devotes nearly an entire section to a description of the Mesaba iron range, including articles on the origin, development, and present condition of the range towns of Hibbing, Buhl, Mountain Iron, and Eveleth. The section is profusely illustrated with pictures of the iron mines and of public buildings in the towns.

"Fortunes Restored to Victims of Indian Land Scandal," is the title of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* of May 5, which deals with the history of the distribution of the lands on the White Earth Indian reservation. Pictures of a number of Indians on the reservation accompany the article.

A description of the various ferries and bridges that have been used to connect the east and west banks of the Mississippi River at Minneapolis may be found in the June 13 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. This is printed in connection with a notice of the completion and dedication of the new Third Avenue bridge, a picture of which accompanies the articles.

The June 2 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* contains an account of how an "Iowa Mill First Gave Minneapolis Flour" in the territorial days when the government mill at Fort Snelling was the only one in the region. A picture of the mill, which is located at Elkader, Iowa, accompanies the article.

The *Staples World* of June 13, in connection with its account of the dedication of the Staples Sacred Heart Catholic Church, reviews the history of that congregation from the time of its organization, in 1890, to the present.

Under the title "Historical Sketches" the *Slayton Gazette* in its issue of May 9 and 16 prints the history of the organizations of the various townships in Murray County and traces the origin of their names. The data for the article were furnished by Neil Currie, who was assisted by John H. Low, a pioneer of the county.

A short account of the beginnings of "Catholicity in Minneapolis" is contained in the April 27 issue of the *Northwestern Chronicle* (St. Paul).